

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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OAK GROVE MAN SENTENCED FOR METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Oak Grove, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Jason G. Rice, 22, of Oak Grove, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to five years and three months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Rice** to forfeit to the government \$8,036, the total amount seized when he was arrested on three separate occasions, which was derived as a result of the conspiracy.

On March 4, 2005, **Rice** pleaded guilty to charges contained in an Oct. 6, 2004, federal indictment. **Rice** admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine between April 1, 2003, and April 4, 2004.

Rice was arrested three times in Independence, Mo., for violations related to the methamphetamine conspiracy, Graves said. He was arrested on July 1, 2003, in possession of \$1,089 and 1.4 grams of methamphetamine. He was also arrested on Dec. 29, 2003, in possession of \$2,077, 2.2 grams of methamphetamine, and a loaded 12-gauge shotgun. **Rice** was arrested again on April 4, 2004, in possession of \$3,870, 21.19 grams of methamphetamine, and a loaded Taurus 9 mm handgun.

On March 1, 2005, co-defendant **Krystal A. Doutt**, 23, also of Oak Grove, was sentenced to one year and six months in federal prison without parole. **Doutt** pleaded guilty on Nov. 9, 2004, to aiding and abetting the illegal possession of a firearm, and being an unlawful user of a controlled substance while in possession of a Taurus 9 mm handgun.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen D. Mahoney. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow